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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/980,376

03/20/2002

Serge Haumont

59643.00717

9736

32294

7590

09/03/2008

SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY L.L.P.
8000 TOWERS CRESCENT DRIVE
14TH FLOOR
VIENNA, VA 22182-6212

EXAMINER

AJAYI, JOEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2617

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/03/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/980,376	Applicant(s) HAUMONT ET AL.	
	Examiner JOEL AJAYI	Art Unit 2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 June 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17, 19, 21-60, 77-92, 96-100 and 102-113 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17, 19, 21-60, 77-92, 96-100, 102-113 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-17, 19, 21-60, 77-92, 96-100, 102-113 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-12, 19, 23-40, 77-87, 97, 98, 102, 106, 107 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over **Larsson et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,643,262)**.

Consider **claim 1**; Larsson discloses an apparatus (adaptor) in a cellular communications network (column 7, lines 19-46; column 15, lines 1-15), comprising:

A monitor configured to monitor at least one parameter related to a connection between a mobile station and a support node (telephone exchange) (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-6); and a determining unit configured to determine if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitor, wherein (wherein clauses do not require the steps to be performed, MPEP 2106 (II)C) the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 7-15).

Consider **claims 2, 24-30**; Larsson discloses that at least one parameter comprises user activity, and wherein said apparatus is configured to release said connection if there is user inactivity for a predetermined period of time (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 7-15).

Consider **claim 3**; Larsson discloses that the apparatus is further configured to release the connection between the apparatus and said mobile station dependent solely on the user activity monitored by said monitor (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 7-15).

Consider **claims 4, 23**; Larsson discloses that the apparatus (adaptor) is further configured to send a message (notify) to the support node (telephone exchange) indicating that said connection has been released (column 15, lines 1-15).

Consider **claim 5**; Larsson discloses that the apparatus (adaptor) is further configured to send a request for the connection to be released to said mobile station (the pause signal sent leads to the release of the connection) (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 7-15).

Consider **claim 6**; Larsson discloses that the support node is configured to send a connection release command to said apparatus in response to the release request received by said apparatus (the adaptor notifies the telephone exchange of the inactivity), and wherein said apparatus is further configured to control the release of said connection (the pause signal sent by the adaptor leads to the release of the connection) (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-15).

Consider **claim 7**; Larsson discloses that the apparatus (adaptor) is further configured to send a release request to said mobile station in response to the release command received from said support node (the pause signal sent by the adaptor, which affects the mobile station and the

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telephone exchange, leads to the release of the connection) (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-15).

Consider **claim 8**; Larsson discloses that the apparatus (adaptor) is further configured to send a message to said support node advising that the connection has been released (the telephone exchange is aware of the connection release) (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 7-15).

Consider **claim 9**; Larsson discloses an apparatus (adaptor) in a cellular communications network (column 7, lines 19-46; column 15, lines 1-15), comprising:

A monitor configured to monitor at least one parameter related to a connection between a mobile station and a support node (telephone exchange) (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-6); and a determining unit configured to determine if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitor, wherein (wherein clauses do not require the steps to be performed, MPEP 2106 (II)C) said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time (period) since the last use of the connection (column 11, lines 16-27), wherein said determining unit is further configured to determine that the connection is to be released if said monitor indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-6), and wherein the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 7-15).

Consider **claim 10**; Larsson discloses that the predetermined time depends on the type of traffic (burst) for which the connection is intended (column 11, lines 16-27).

Consider **claim 11**; Larsson discloses that the predetermined time depends on the quality of service profile of the traffic for which the connection is intended (column 1, lines 16-48; column 11, lines 16-27).

Consider **claim 12**; Larsson discloses an apparatus (adaptor) in a cellular communications network (column 7, lines 19-46; column 15, lines 1-15), comprising:

A monitor configured to monitor at least one parameter related to a connection between a mobile station and a support node (telephone exchange) (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-6); and a determining unit configured to determine if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitoring means (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-15), wherein (wherein clauses do not require the steps to be performed, MPEP 2106 (II)C) said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station (inactivity), wherein said determining unit is further configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitor (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-15), and wherein the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-15).

Consider **claims 19, 77-87**; Larsson discloses a cellular communications network, comprising: an apparatus (adaptor), a mobile station and a support node (telephone exchange) (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-15).

Consider **claim 31-40**; Larsson discloses that at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection is to

be released based on the state of the mobile station (inactivity) determined by said monitor (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-15).

Consider **claim 97**; Larsson discloses that at least one parameter comprises at least one of a state of the mobile station (inactivity), movement of the mobile station, or an amount of communication between the mobile station and a radio network controller (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-15).

Consider **claim 98**; Larsson discloses an apparatus comprising: a processor configured to monitor at least one parameter of a connection established between a mobile station and a support node and to determine if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, line 57 – column 16, line 6), wherein (wherein clauses do not require the steps to be performed, MPEP 2106 (II)C) the apparatus is implemented in a cellular communication network(column 7, lines 19-46; column 15, lines 1-15, and wherein said apparatus is being configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-15).

Consider **claim 102**; Larsson discloses that the apparatus is further configured to release the connection between the apparatus and said mobile station dependent solely on only one parameter monitored by said monitor (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-15).

Consider **claim 106**; Larsson discloses an apparatus (adaptor) in a cellular communications network (column 7, lines 19-46; column 15, lines 1-15), comprising:

Monitoring means for monitoring at least one parameter elated to a connection between a mobile station and a support node (telephone exchange) (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15,

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lines 1-6); and a determining means for determining if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said means for monitoring, wherein (wherein clauses do not require the steps to be performed, MPEP 2106 (II)C) said at least one parameter comprises an elapsed time (period) since the last use of the connection (column 11, lines 16-27), wherein said determining unit is further configured to determine that the connection is to be released if said monitor indicates that the connection has not been used for a predetermined time (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-6), and wherein the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 7-15).

Consider **claim 107**; Larsson discloses an apparatus (adaptor) in a cellular communications network (column 7, lines 19-46; column 15, lines 1-15), comprising:

Monitoring means for monitoring at least one parameter elated to a connection between a mobile station and a support node (telephone exchange) (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-6); and a determining means for determining if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitoring means (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-15), wherein (wherein clauses do not require the steps to be performed, MPEP 2106 (II)C) said at least one parameter comprises a state of said mobile station (inactivity), wherein said determining unit is further configured to determine if the connection is to be released based on the state of the mobile station determined by said monitor (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-15), and wherein the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-15).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 13-17, 21, 22, 41-60, 88-92, 96, 99, 100, 103-105, 108-113 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Larsson et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,643,262)** in view of **Stephenson et al. (U.S. Patent Number: 6,119,000)**.

Consider **claim 13**; Larsson discloses an apparatus (adaptor) in a cellular communications network (column 7, lines 19-46; column 15, lines 1-15), comprising:

A monitor configured to monitor at least one parameter elated to a connection between a mobile station and a support node (telephone exchange) (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-6); and a determining unit configured to determine if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitor, wherein (wherein clauses do not require the steps to be performed, MPEP 2106 (II)C) the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 7-15).

Except: at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is further configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitor.

In an analogous art, Stephenson discloses at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is further configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitor (column 6, lines 21-25; column 12, lines 10-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Larsson by including a mobile station's movement, as taught by Stephenson, for the purpose of efficiently managing network resources.

Consider **claim 14**; Stephenson discloses that an amount of updating information received in a given time from the mobile station is used as a measure of the movement of the mobile station (column 7, lines 1-21).

Consider **claim 15**; Stephenson discloses that updating information comprises universal mobile telecommunication systems terrestrial radio access network registration area updates (column 7, lines 1-21).

Consider **claim 16**; Larsson discloses an apparatus (adaptor) in a cellular communications network (column 7, lines 19-46; column 15, lines 1-15), comprising:

A monitor configured to monitor at least one parameter related to a connection between a mobile station and a support node (telephone exchange) (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-6); and a determining unit configured to determine if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitor, wherein (wherein clauses do not require the steps to be performed, MPEP 2106 (II)C) the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 7-15).

Except: at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is further configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of the mobile station monitored by said monitor.

In an analogous art, Stephenson discloses at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is further configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of the mobile station monitored by said monitor (column 6, lines 21-25; column 12, lines 10-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Larsson by including a mobile station's movement, as taught by Stephenson, for the purpose of efficiently managing network resources.

Consider **claim 17**; Stephenson discloses that at least one parameter comprises associations of the mobile station with different apparatus (MSC and BTS), and said determining unit being further configured to determine that the connection should be released if said monitor indicates that the mobile station is associated with different apparatus (column 6, lines 21-25, 55-59; column 12, lines 10-30).

Consider **claims 21, 100**; Stephenson discloses that the support node is a serving general packet radio service support node (SGSN is responsible for the delivery of data packets to and from mobile stations in its area, MSC performs the same function) (column 6, lines 21-25; column 8, lines 30-39; column 12, lines 10-30).

Consider **claims 22, 96**; Stephenson discloses that the network operates in accordance with a universal mobile telecommunication systems standard (UMTS is based on GSM) (column 6, lines 21-25, 55-59; column 12, lines 10-30).

Consider **claim 41-50**; Stephenson discloses that at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitor (column 6, lines 21-25; column 12, lines 10-30).

Consider **claim 51-60**; Stephenson discloses that at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of said mobile station monitored by said monitor (column 6, lines 21-25; column 12, lines 10-30).

Consider **claims 88-92**; Larsson discloses a cellular communications network, comprising: an apparatus (adaptor), a mobile station and a support node (telephone exchange) (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-15).

Consider **claim 99**; Larsson discloses the claimed invention except: establishing a connection between a mobile station and a support node in a cellular communications network through a radio network controller; monitoring, at the radio network controller, at least one parameter related to the connection between the mobile station and the support node; and determining, at the radio network controller, if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter.

In an analogous art, Stephenson discloses establishing a connection between a mobile station and a support node in a cellular communications network through a radio network controller (BSC) (column 6, lines 21-25; column 12, lines 10-30); monitoring, at the radio network controller, at least one parameter related to the connection between the mobile station and the support node (column 6, lines 21-25; column 12, lines 10-30); and determining, at the radio network controller, if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter (location/movement) (column 6, lines 21-25; column 12, lines 10-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Larsson by including a mobile station's movement, as taught by Stephenson, for the purpose of efficiently managing network resources.

Consider **claims 103, 111**; Larsson discloses that at least one parameter comprises user activity, and wherein said apparatus is configured to release said connection if there is user inactivity for a predetermined period of time (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 7-15).

Consider **claims 104, 112**; Larsson discloses that the apparatus is further configured to release the connection between the apparatus and said mobile station dependent solely on the user activity monitored by said monitor (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 7-15).

Consider **claims 105, 113**; Larsson discloses that only one parameter related to the connection between the mobile station and the support node is monitored and determining releasing the connection between the network element and said mobile station dependent solely on only one parameter monitored by said monitor (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-15).

Consider **claim 108**; Larsson discloses an apparatus (adaptor) in a cellular communications network (column 7, lines 19-46; column 15, lines 1-15), comprising:

Monitoring means for monitoring at least one parameter related to a connection between a mobile station and a support node (telephone exchange) (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-6); and a determining means for determining if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitor, wherein (wherein clauses do not require the steps to be performed, MPEP 2106 (II)C) the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 7-15).

Except: at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is further configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitor.

In an analogous art, Stephenson discloses at least one parameter comprises a movement of the mobile station, and said determining unit is further configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the movement of the mobile station monitored by said monitor (column 6, lines 21-25; column 12, lines 10-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Larsson by including a mobile station's movement, as taught by Stephenson, for the purpose of efficiently managing network resources.

Consider **claim 109**; Larsson discloses an apparatus (adaptor) in a cellular communications network (column 7, lines 19-46; column 15, lines 1-15), comprising:

Monitoring means for monitoring at least one parameter related to a connection between a mobile station and a support node (telephone exchange) (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 1-6); and a determining means for determining if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter monitored by said monitor, wherein (wherein clauses do not require the steps to be performed, MPEP 2106 (II)C) the apparatus is configured to provide the connection between the mobile station and the support node (column 11, lines 16-27; column 15, lines 7-15).

Except: at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is further configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of the mobile station monitored by said monitor.

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In an analogous art, Stephenson discloses at least one parameter comprises a location of the mobile station, and said determining unit is further configured to determine if the connection should be released based on the location of the mobile station monitored by said monitor (column 6, lines 21-25; column 12, lines 10-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Larsson by including a mobile station's movement, as taught by Stephenson, for the purpose of efficiently managing network resources.

Consider **claim 110**; Larsson discloses the claimed invention except: establishing a connection between a mobile station and a support node in a cellular communications network through a radio network controller; monitoring, at the radio network controller, at least one parameter related to the connection between the mobile station and the support node; and determining, at the radio network controller, if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter.

In an analogous art, Stephenson discloses establishing a connection between a mobile station and a support node in a cellular communications network through a radio network controller (BSC) (column 6, lines 21-25; column 12, lines 10-30); monitoring, at the radio network controller, at least one parameter related to the connection between the mobile station and the support node (column 6, lines 21-25; column 12, lines 10-30); and determining, at the radio network controller, if the connection between said support node and said mobile station is to be released dependent solely on said at least one parameter (location/movement) (column 6, lines 21-25; column 12, lines 10-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Larsson by including a mobile station's movement, as taught by Stephenson, for the purpose of efficiently managing network resources.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Joel Ajayi whose telephone number is (571) 270-1091. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30am to 5:00pm and Friday 7:30am to 4:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Lester Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-7922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Joel Ajayi

/Lester Kincaid/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617